

The Hertford County Early College, located on the Roanoke-Chowan Community College campus, enables students to earn a high school diploma and college credit at the same time. The school provides a rigorous, technology-rich and hands-on curriculum that promotes critical thinking and problem-solving to prepare students for real-world experiences.

The Hyde County Early College High School provides learning opportunities for all students who want to complete high school with an associate degree or two years of college transfer credit. Students receive online instruction and learn from high school teachers and Beaufort County Community College instructors in the classroom. Students will graduate with the skills and knowledge to continue their education at a four year university or to begin a career.

The Iredell-Statesville Visual and Performing Arts School is an early college partnership with Mitchell Community and Catawba Colleges and will provide students with an accelerated and comprehensive academic and fine arts course of study. Students at the school will earn both a high school diploma and an associate of fine arts degree or two years of transferable college credit. The curriculum will include advanced level choral, instrumental, theatre, dance and visual arts courses.

The Columbia iSchool is a partnership between Tyrrell County Schools, Beaufort County Community College and the UNC-G iSchool and is designed to serve a diverse student population. Students attending Columbia iSchool will earn a high school diploma and two years of college credit in up to five years. Students at the school can take classes in business administration, early childhood education, mechanical engineering technology/drafting and design offered through Beaufort Community College or they can enroll in a variety of online college courses offered through the UNC-G iSchool.

A total of 60 *Learn and Earn* schools are now open to serve nearly 7,000 students in 53 counties. Most schools are on a community college or university campus and allow students to take college courses, tuition free. After no more than five years of study, students earn a high school diploma and two years of college credit or an associate degree for free.

Students who do not live near a *Learn and Earn* high school can receive college credit for free by enrolling in *Learn and Earn Online*. As with *Learn and Earn* high schools, students can earn both a high school diploma and an associate degree or two years of transferable college credit to any state university in up to five years of study. Access to these courses is provided at every public high school in the state.

The EARN (Education Access Rewards North Carolina) Grants join with other forms of assistance, such as federal Pell Grants, to replace the need for student loans. When fully-implemented, the EARN grants will provide \$4,000 a year in assistance for two years to 25,000 students from families earning less than 200 percent of the poverty level. Students receiving the grant will be required to keep their grades up and pay some nominal costs through earned income or work service credit. These grants make a debt-free college degree attainable for many students. For more information about any of these programs visit www.nclearnandearn.gov.

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